Case Name: Gillingham War Memorial

Case Number: 1432975

Background
Gillingham War Memorial is being assessed for listing as part of Historic England's First World War Commemoration project.

Asset(s) under Assessment
Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	Name	Heritage Category
1	Gillingham War Memorial	Listing

Visits

Date	Visit Type
none	No Visit / Data from other sources

Annex 1

The factual details are being assessed as the basis for a proposed addition to The National Heritage List for England.

Factual Details

Name: Gillingham War Memorial

Location

Junction of Brompton Road and Mill Road, Gillingham,Kent, ME7 1HL

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Medway	Unitary Authority	Non Civil Parish

History

The war memorial in Gillingham was unveiled on 20 July 1924 by Alderman WH Griffin JP and was dedicated by Right Reverend Harmer, the Bishop of Rochester. It was erected to commemorate those residents of Gillingham who lost their lives in the First World War. Later inscriptions were added to commemorate Second World War and Korean War losses. It originally stood on a roundabout at the junction of High Street, Mill Road, Brompton Road and Marlborough Road but was later moved c20m across the road to Medway Park. This roundabout included a contemporary arrangement of lamp standards and an encircling chain carried on low posts: these features were not retained.

The memorial was designed by Francis W Doyle-Jones (1873-1938), an architect and sculptor originally from Hartlepool. He worked first for his father, before studying in Paris and London and concentrated on portraiture. He designed a number of Boer War memorials including those at Middlesbrough (Grade II), Gateshead (Grade II) and Penrith. His numerous First World War memorials include those in Gravesend, Sutton Coldfield (Grade II), and the 'Men of Elland' memorial in West Yorkshire (Grade II).

Details

DESCRIPTION: The memorial is a tall four-sided stone pylon with stepped detailing to the top, standing on a two-stage, square, pedestal. That stands on a two-stepped, square, base. The memorial stands in a square paved area surrounded by a chain carried on low bollards.

The front and rear faces of the pylon bear shallow cross forms. The front face of the cenotaph is decorated at the top with a carved roundel, inside which is carved in low relief the figure of Christ crucified, holding a torch in each hand, and being supported on either side by two female figures. Below this is the inscription TO THE/ GLORIOUS MEMORY/ OF THOSE/ OF THIS BOROUGH/ WHO LAID DOWN/ THEIR LIVES FOR/ KING & COUNTRY/ IN THE/ GREAT WAR/ 1914-1919/ AND/ WORLD WAR/ 1939-1945/ KOREAN WAR/ 1950-1953.

At the top of the rear face of the memorial, a similar roundel contains a laurel wreath carved in relief within which is the inscription 1914/ 1919. Below this is the inscription AT THE GOING DOWN/ OF THE SUN & IN THE/ MORNING WE WILL/ REMEMBER THEM. A small rectangular stone vase on the base of the memorial bears the inscription THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION/ WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: Two inscribed stones erected in 2013 stand either side of the memorial to the north side.

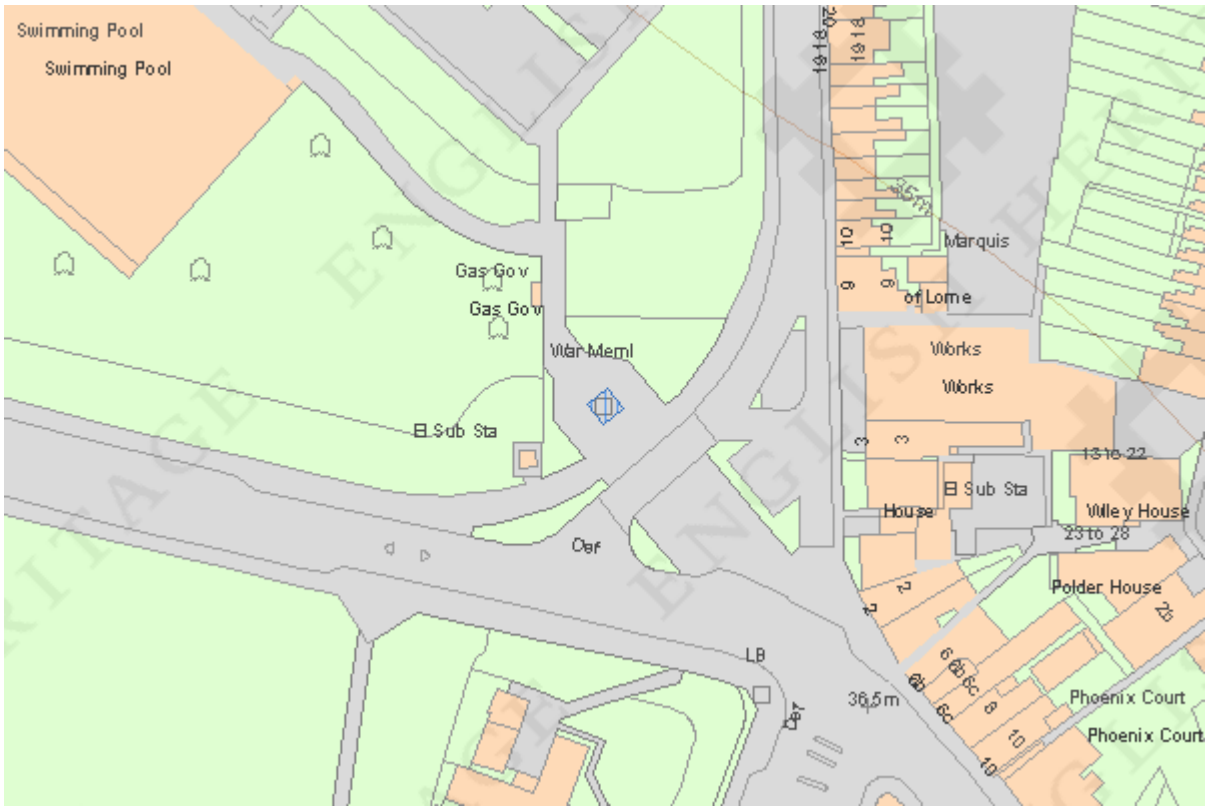
Selected Sources

Websites

Imperial War Museum, War Memorials Archive, accessed 29/01/2016 from
http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/30621
The Kent History Forum, accessed 29/01/2016 from
http://www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=16212.0
University of Glasgow, Mapping the Practice and Profession of Sculpture in Britain and Ireland 1851-1951, accessed 26/01/2016 from
http://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/view/person.php?id=msib2_1204843722&search=Doyle

Map

National Grid Reference: TQ7695968691



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF – 1433120_1.pdf.